



City of Milwaukee

Meeting Minutes

SISTER CITIES COMMITTEE

200 E. Wells Street
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
53202

ALDERMAN JOE DAVIS, SR., CHAIR
Daisy Cubias, Al Durtka, Charles Vang and Vivian Chen

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Friday, March 30, 2007

9:00 AM

Room 301-B, City Hall

Meeting convened: 9:09 A.M.

1. Roll call

Dr. Chen arrived at 10:00 A.M.

Present 5 - Cubias, Davis, Chen, Durtka, Vang

2. Approval of the minutes of the February, 23, 2007 meeting

Mr. Durtka moved approval of the minutes, Mr. Vang seconded. There were no objections.

3. Appearances and reports given by current Sister City relationships

Ald. Davis asked if there is any one here to report on Schwerin, Germany.

Ms. Wilma Giese and Mr. Frank Schmidt President of the German Immersion Society and the Austrian American Society of Milwaukee, appeared to report on the relationship with Schwerin, Germany.

Ms. Giese handed out copies of a letter she wrote to Mayor Barrett (Exhibit 1), a letter from Mayor Barrett to Herrn Oberbuurgermeister in Schwerin, Mecklenburg, Germany (Exhibit 2) and a newsletter called "Sister City STAR" (Exhibit 3).

Mr. Schmidt explained why they originally picked Schwerin as the city in Germany to have a sister city relationship with Milwaukee. He than said that there has been a lack of response from Schwerin to continue a sister city relationship. Ald. Davis asked if they are interested in continuing a sister city relationship with Scherwin or would they like to look for a different city in Germany. Ms. Giese and Mr. Schmidt both said that they don't know at this time if they should continue the relationship. They asked if they could have some time to bring it to a vote before the German Immersion Society. Ald. Davis said they would not take action on Schwerin Germany until this committee receives a formal letter from Ms. Giese letting this committee know what they would like to do. Mr. Durtka suggested that they set a deadline for the reply. Mr. Schmidt said the Society meets on the second Monday of the month and he would bring it up at their April meeting and by the May meeting they could take a vote on it. Mr. Durtka said a 60-90 day deadline should give them the time they need to consider the Schwerin Germany relationship. Ald. Davis agreed and said they could also come back with another city if they decide to terminatethe relationship with Scherwin, Germany.

Motion was made by Mr. Durtka to give a deadline of 60 days for Ms. Geise to respond by

letter on whether they want to terminate the relationship with Schwerin Germany and/or to offer another city in Germany that they would like to consider establishing a relationship with.

Ald. Murphy appeared on behalf of Ms. Jane Anderson for Galway Ireland. Ald. Murphy gave an overview of their activities with Galway Ireland. He said they would like to continue a sister city relationship with Milwaukee.

Motion was made by Mr. Vang and seconded by Mr. Durtka to ask Galway Ireland to submit a formal application. There were no objections.

Ms. MacDonald advised the committee that she spoke to Mr. Frinzi on March 29, 2007 and he said that they sent a letter to Parma Italy over a month ago and they haven't received a response. He said they would like to consider another city to have a sister city relationship with.

Motion was made by Ald. Durtka and seconded by Ms. Cubias to terminate the sister city relationship with Parma, Italy. There were no objections.

Mr. Durtka asked if a formal letter could be sent to the Mayor of Parma, Italy letting him/her know that the City of Milwaukee has terminated the sister city relationship. Mr. Leonhardt said a formal letter could be sent with the certified copy of the resolution terminating the relationship. Mr. Durtka said a copy should also go to the embassies.

Motion by Mr. Durtka and seconded by Mr. Vang to invite Nuevitas, Cuba to submit a formal application. There were no objections.

4. Review and discussion relative to the submission of formal applications

Ald. Davis said that Carora, Venezuela advised that they are working on completing their application, Patiala, India is working on their application and we received a completed application for Morogoro, South Central Tanzania.

Mr. Ryan Skaife appeared on behalf of HOPE In Tanzania Foundation to answer any questions related to the application for Morogoro, South Central Tanzania (Exhibit 4).

Mr. Leonhardt asked Mr. Skaife what is their legal status as a 501(c)3 non-profit organization at this time. Mr. Skaife advised that they have applied for 501(c)3 status and in the mean- time they have several non-profit organizations that will handle any fundraising until their application has been approved.

Motion was made by Mr. Vang and seconded by Mr. Durtka to enter into a formal sister city relationship with Morogoro, South Central Tanzania, as amended as follows: That a copy of the application for 501(c)3 status and a letter from the fiscal agent be submitted prior to the file being heard by the Community and Economic Development Committee. There were no objections.

Mr. Durtka questioned whether the application could appear before the Council when it isn't yet a 501(c)3 organization. Mr. Leonhardt said that the ordinance doesn't require 501(c)3 status. Ald. Davis said that 501(c)3 status is an important criteria to enter into a sister city relationship. Ald. Davis asked that the committee move forward with the above application, but at our next meeting we will amend the rules to require 501(c)3 status before an application is accepted. Ms. Cubias advised that she doesn't feel that a 501c3 status should be required, because it is a very complicating process. Ald. Davis said that the local organization should have either a 501(c)3 status or have a letter or agreement

submitted by a fiscal agent when filing its application. Ald. Davis feels it would protect the city. Mr. Durtka said a copy of the application for a 501(c)3 should also be attached to the application when submitted. Mr. Vang asked if a 501(c)6 applications could be considered. Ald. Davis said that anything that is documented with at the Federal level would be acceptable. Mr. Leonhardt suggested that the motion be amended to require a copy of the application for 501(c)3 status and a letter or agreement from the fiscal agent be submitted prior to the application being heard by the Community and Economic Development Committee. Mr. Durtka moved that the motion be amended.

Dr. Chen asked Mr. Skaife to give an update on the health statistics in Morogoro. Mr. Skaife replied that that AIDS and malnutrition are the top concerns and said that he submitted a 18 minute video to be reviewed by the committee members. Ms. MacDonald will have copies made for each of the members to review.

5. Next meeting date and time

Next meeting date: April 27, 2007 at 9:00 A.M.

Meeting adjourned: 10:17 A.M.

*Terry J. MacDonald
Staff Assistant*